

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 00190 130229Z

71-62

ACTION OC-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 OPR-02 DODE-00

PM-04 /034 W

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R 121020Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9365

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0190

ATHENS FOR RCO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, ASEC

SUBJ: E&E RADIO

1. DURING VISIT BY CINCPAC NEMBAC (E&E) SURVEY TEAM JAN 6-9, NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE RAISED CONCERNING IN-COUNTRY VOICE COMMUNICATIONS. ALTHOUGH EXISTING EMBASSY VHF NETWORK CONSIDERED ADEQUATE FOR DACCA CONTINGENCY PLANNING, CRITICAL ISSUE WAS PROBLEM OF PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS FOR LARGE NUMBER OF NON-OFFICIAL U.S. CITIZENS RESIDENT THROUGHOUT BANGLADESH. SPECIFICALLY, IN EVENT OF AIRLIFT EVACUATION BY ROTARY OR FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR EVACUEES, AT PRE-DETERMINED STAGING SITES, TO HAVE GROUND-TO-AIR CONTACT BY EITHER UHF OR VHF RADIO.

2. POST COGNIZENT OF HOST-GOVERNMENT SENSITIVITIES REGARDING POSSESSION OF RADIO EQUIPMENT BY NON-OFFICIAL PARTIES. HOWEVER, AS NEMVAC TEAM POINTED OUT, THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD ONLY BE ACTIVATED DURING AN ACTUAL EVACUATION SITUATION.

3. PRIMARY ISSUE WAS METHOD OF SUPPLYING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN KEY LOCATIONS WITH RADIO UNITS. WE ARE HESITANT IN COMMITTING UNITS FROM VHF

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PAGE 02 DACCA 00190 130229Z

INVENTORY FOR SUCH PURPOSES AND IT WAS ALSO EXPLAINED

THAT ANY EXPANSION OF EMBASSY NETWORK WOULD REQUIRE
OC APPROVAL. SURVEY TEAM SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF
HAVING RADIO EQUIPMENT CHanneled TO POST THROUGH
U.S. MILITARY SOURCES. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE INDICATES
THAT 20 TO 25 UNITS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN MOST
FAVORABLE COVERAGE.

4. KEYED TO EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM VIET NAM AND
CAMBODIA EVACUATIONS, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT GUIDANCE
SOONEST.
CHESLAW

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NNN

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